



INTEGRATING CONSERVATION AND READINESS AT FORT STEWART AND HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD



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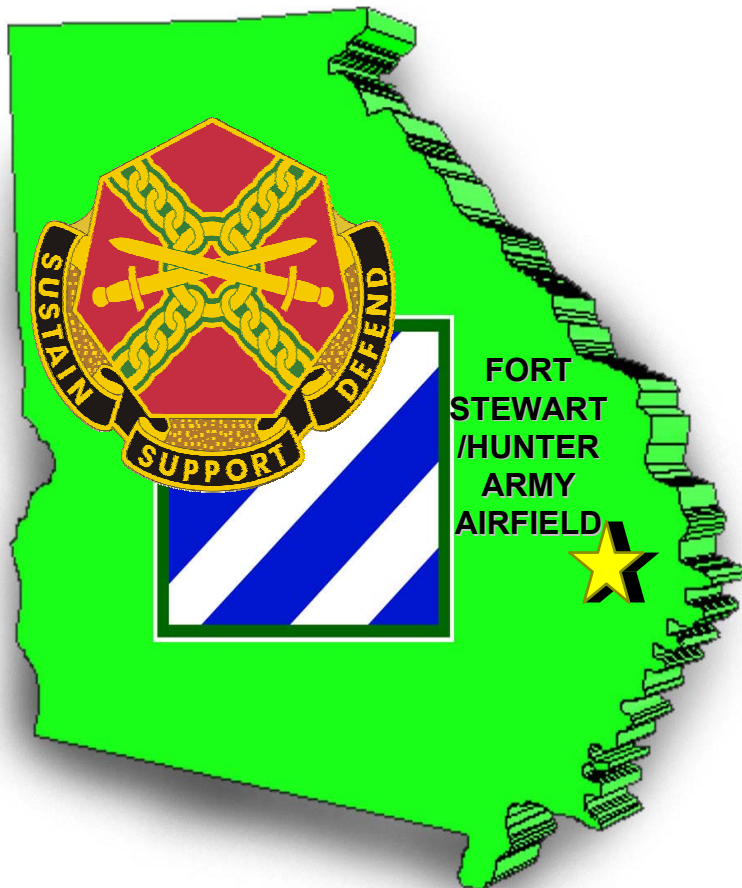
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Integrating Conservation and Readiness



Maintaining World-Class Readiness . . .



FORT
STEWART
/HUNTER
ARMY
AIRFIELD



- LARGEST ARMY INSTALLATION EAST OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER
 - ✓ 279,000 ACRES
 - ✓ FORSCOM'S LARGEST "WITHIN THE FENCE" TRAINING AREA
- PROVIDES TRAINING AND READINESS SUPPORT TO JOINT WARFIGHTERS
 - ✓ NO ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITATIONS
 - ✓ ABILITY TO TRAIN 24/7/365
 - ✓ FIRE ALL 3ID WEAPONS PLUS JOINT BOMBING
 - ✓ 3,300 SQ MILES SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE
- STRATEGIC LOCATION TO DEPLOY DoD FORCES
 - ✓ HAAF CAN ACCOMMODATE 56 OF LARGEST AIRCRAFT IN DoD INVENTORY AT ONE TIME
 - ✓ FOUR SEA PORTS AVAILABLE
 - ✓ SINCE 9/11 MOBILIZED 21,571 SOLDIERS FROM 36 STATES



Integrating Conservation and Readiness



... and Conserving World-Class Resources



- Over 90,000 acres of wetlands
 - ✓ Established 1st wetlands bank in DoD
- Largest tract of longleaf forest in Georgia
 - ✓ Top timber producer in DoD
 - ✓ Largest prescribed burn program in U.S.
- 6 federally listed species
 - ✓ Largest population of red-cockaded woodpeckers in Georgia
 - ✓ Largest population of flatwoods salamanders in Georgia
 - ✓ Largest population of eastern indigo snakes in Georgia
 - ✓ A leader in shortnose sturgeon recovery efforts
- Largest public hunting and fishing program in Georgia
- 65 cemeteries, over 30 former communities, and a Colonial era fort



Integrating Conservation and Readiness



Some Guiding Concepts . . .

- Compliance with conservation laws and regulations is not optional
- Proactive planning and action helps avoid project / mission delays
- Conservation and military readiness are not mutually exclusive
- Proactive use of environmental \$\$\$ leverages OPTEMPO \$\$\$

. . . and Some Local Examples

- Wetlands bank
- Road hardening / erosion control
- Prescribed burning
- Threatened & endangered species conservation
- Project coordination / site selection



Integrating Conservation and Readiness



Wetland Banking

- A “Wetland Bank” is similar to a regular banking institution
- A “Wetland Bank” allows Command to debit from the bank of “restored” or “saved” wetlands in exchange for permission to impact existing wetlands.

2 Acres of Former Wetland

WETLANDS BANK

1 Acre we can fill for a
training project



Before Remediation



During Remediation

*The restoration of Fort Stewart Pond 4 to a Wetland Bank is
the recognized standard for all wetland banks.*



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Hardening of Tank Trails at Stream Crossings

Before:

- Erosion impacts water quality
- Impassable road impacts training



After:

- Sediment run-off reduced
- Road passable in all weather
- Paid for with environmental \$\$\$



Integrating Conservation and Readiness



Wildland Fire Management Benefiting the Military Mission

FY 2001 – FY 2004

- Wildfires Suppressed Due to Military Training
149 Wildfires - 1,397 Acres (36% of Total Wildfires)
- Burn Prescriptions Prepared to Support Ranges
132 Prescriptions – 147,494 Acres (23% of Total Prescriptions)
- Actual Prescribed Burns Performed to Support Military Mission
149 Prescribed Burns – 135,645 Acres (29% of Total Burns)



✓ No Training Time Lost Due to Wildfire Suppression in Last Six Years!

✓ FY 2003 North American Prescribed Burn Record (176,368 Acres)



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Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation

Increased conservation efforts

Increasing RCW population

Increasing support for new
guidelines that reduce
training restrictions



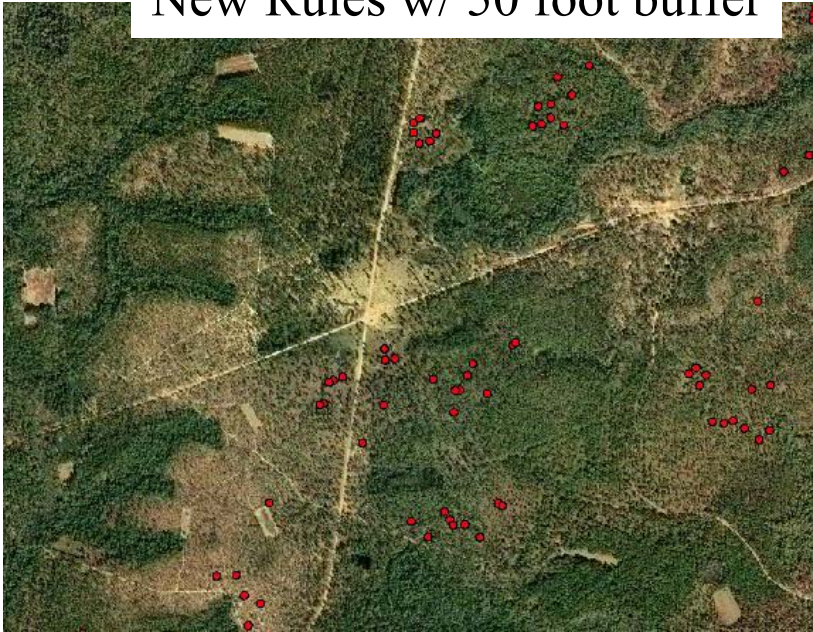


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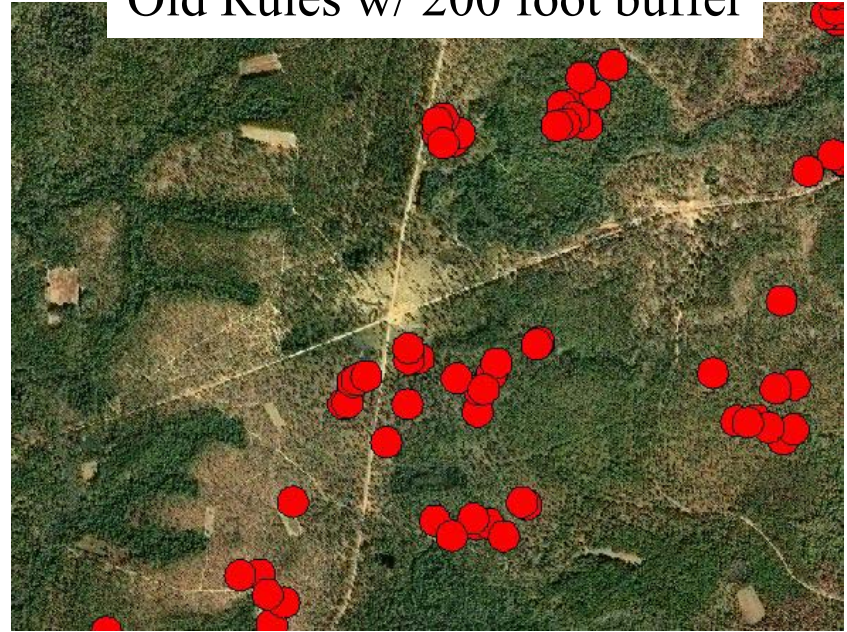


Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation (cont'd)

New Rules w/ 50 foot buffer



Old Rules w/ 200 foot buffer



- 1996 RCW Guidelines significantly reduced training restrictions in existing clusters
- Over 87,000 acres of maneuver land set aside as “mission essential”
 - ✓ **No** training restrictions in new clusters that become established in these areas
 - ✓ Since 2001, RCWs have moved into 37 unprotected clusters

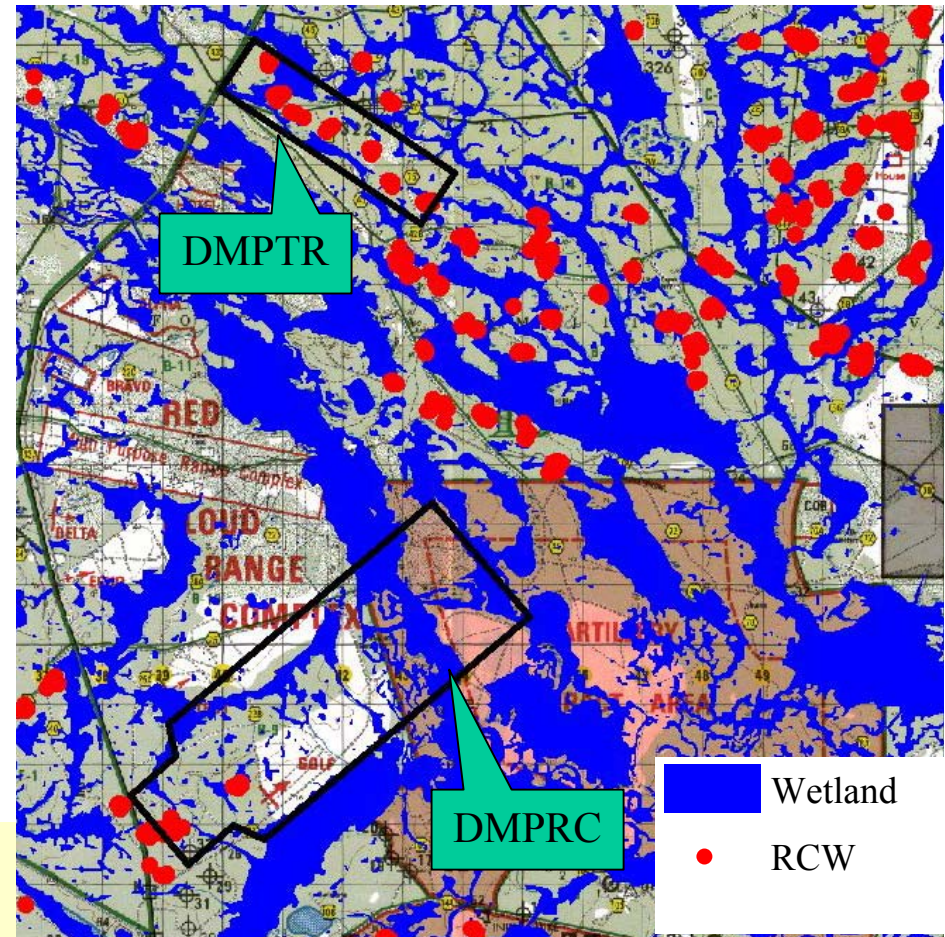


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Project Site Selection – Real World Examples

- DMPTR and DMPRC will provide state of the art live fire facilities for armor and mech infantry
- Siting consolidated with similar facilities
 - ✓ More efficient
 - ✓ Minimize conflict with maneuver
 - ✓ Preserve options for future
- Siting as shown impacts:
 - ✓ 8 RCW clusters
 - ✓ over 100 acres of wetland
- COE and FWS are supportive because:
 - ✓ our wetland bank mitigates wetland losses
 - ✓ our RCW population has increased by 114 clusters and is continuing to grow



★ Projects are on track for FY 07 and 08 ...
planning and proactive management pays !!



Integrating Conservation and Readiness



CONCLUSION

- Our commitment to sound stewardship of the environment fits hand in hand with our commitment to provide world-class training for our soldiers
- We will continue to seek innovative ways to integrate conservation and readiness in order to sustain our military mission, sustain our environment, and enhance the quality of life for our soldiers, our families, and our neighbors